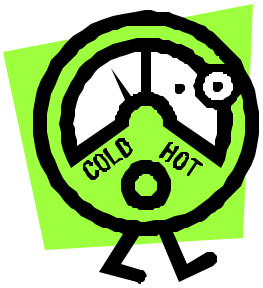
The Missouri Public Service Commission

Informed Consumers, Quality Utility Services, and a Dedicated Organization for Missourians in the 21st Century



SETTING YOUR THERMOSTAT

A thermostat is a temperature-sensitive switch that controls a furnace or air conditioner. When the indoor temperature drops below or rises above the thermostat setting, your furnace or air conditioner runs to warm or cool the house air to the setting you selected. Most thermostats must be manually adjusted to change the indoor air temperature.

How To Save Energy Costs

▶ You can easily save energy in the winter by setting the thermostat to a comfortable temperature when you're at home and awake, and lowering it to a cooler, but acceptable, temperature when you're asleep or away. This plan is effective and inexpensive if you are willing to adjust the thermostat by hand and wake up in a chilly house.

▶ In the summer, you can follow the same plan with central air conditioning by keeping your house warmer than normal when you are away, and lowering the thermostat setting to a more comfortable temperature only when you are at home.

▶ If you have a programmable thermostat, you can set it to automatically make these adjustments at different times during the day to match your typical behavior and maximize your savings with a minimum amount of effort.

Some Common Misconceptions

MYTH: A furnace works harder than normal to warm the space back to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat has been set back, resulting in little or no savings.

FACT: The fuel required to reheat a building to a comfortable temperature is roughly equal to the fuel saved as the building drops to the lower temperature. You save fuel between the time that the temperature stabilizes at the lower level and the next time heat is needed.

MYTH: The higher you raise a thermostat, the more heat the furnace will put out, or the house will warm up faster if the thermostat is raised higher.

FACT: Furnaces put out the same amount of heat no matter how high the thermostat is set — the variable is how long it must stay on to reach the set temperature.

NOTE

Seniors and people with special medical needs should check with their doctors before changing their normal home temperatures or turning off air conditioning or heating units.

Turning The Heat Down Just Four Hours Will Save Money

In the winter, significant savings can be obtained by manually or automatically reducing your thermostat's temperature setting for as little as four hours per day. These savings can be attributed to a building's heat loss in the winter, which depends greatly on the difference between the inside and outside temperatures. For example, if you set the temperature back on your thermostat for an entire night, your energy savings can be substantial.

Source: US Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

For more information

Created in 1913, the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates over 1,000 investor-owned telecommunications, water and sewer, natural gas, electric and steam utilities. The PSC works to ensure that Missouri citizens receive safe, reliable and reasonably priced utility services. If you have an inquiry, billing question or service-related problem that your utility provider cannot answer, please call the PSC at **1-800-392-4211** or visit our website at **www.psc.mo.gov**

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